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IN OUR OPINION:

More control needed over CIA activities

The assassination of John F. Kennedy, an event practically relegated to history books and the Warren Commission Report, might become a subject of debate again and perhaps even further investigation, especially into the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Washington columnist Jack Anderson, whose writing frequently appears on this page, claims to have information possibly related to the assassination. He says the information is from "sources whose credentials are beyond question."

Anderson says the CIA tried six times in the years preceding Kennedy's death to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. In today's column, Anderson also links the CIA to the deaths of Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo and former South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

We don't doubt that the CIA is capable of pulling off such James Bond-style intrigues as Anderson has suggested. The question is, did it, and if it did, what can be done now?

Many congressmen have criticized the seeming autonomy of the CIA. Critics have charged that it acts as an actual policy-making body, rather than serving an advisory function on matters of intelligence and security.

Objections to the CIA's activities led in 1966 to a bitter debate on the Senate floor. Sen. J. William

Fulbright, D-Ark., introduced a resolution which called for the creation of a nine-member overseeing committee to keep tabs on the CIA. Fulbright wanted to draw the nine members equally from the Armed Services, Appropriations and Foreign Relations committees, in hopes of bringing the activities of the agency under closer supervision and scrutiny.

The resolution lost on a point of order vote which relegated it to the Armed Services Committee, where it died.

Early the following year, the nation learned of the CIA's involvement in secret subsidization of organizations engaged in education, law, journalism, labor and religion. In response, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the CIA and other government agencies to halt secret financing of private voluntary organizations.

Now the CIA has been accused of outright plotting to murder foreign heads of state. Anderson hints that President Kennedy had not ordered the CIA to undertake such missions. Anderson also suggests that Kennedy's own death was the result of the alleged CIA attempts on Castro's life.

The CIA continues to function much as it did in the early 1960s—no new controls have been put on it.

Anderson's charges, if proven true, should provide the impetus for a renewed effort to bring the CIA under proper controls.